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UNITED STATES DIS SOUTHERN DISTRICT	OF NEW YORK	
ORTH AMERICAN OL ASSOCIATION,		
Pl	aintiff,	
V •		13 CV 0868
KANGADIS FOODS,		
De	efendant.	
	х	New York, N.Y. April 12, 2013 12:30 p.m.
Before:		
	HON. JED S. F	AKOFF,
		District Judge
	APPEARANC	ES
SIDLEY AUSTIN LLF Attorney for BY: TIMOTHY TREA NITIN REDDY	Plaintiff	
FARRELL FRITZ, P. Attorney for BY: MICHAEL SCHO	Defendant	
Present: Erin Ba	lch	
Themis	Kangadis	

(In open court)

THE COURT: So I'm extremely sorry for the extended delay. Another matter that I just had to deal with came up.

I'm ready to hear argument. This is North American Olive Oil Association vs. Kangadis Food, Inc.

MR. TREANOR: Tim Treanor from Sidley Austin here for the North American Olive Oil Association. With me is my partner Nitin Reddy, and Erin Balch, who is executive vice president of the NAOOA.

Your Honor, I would request, Mr. Reddy is a member of the bar in California, and I would request that he be admitted pro hoc vice for purposes of this matter, although I expect to be addressing the Court today.

THE COURT: That is fine, but why didn't you file, in advance, the requisite form?

MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, our apologies for not doing that. We got a Certificate of Good Standing for Mr. Ready on April 8. So we do have the paperwork together now to actually make the filing, but we had not done that, we have not done it as of yet.

Mr. Reddy flew in from California yesterday --

THE COURT: April 8 was --

MR. TREANOR: Four days ago, your Honor.

THE COURT: Four days ago.

MR. TREANOR: Yeah.

THE COURT: So, do you need to tell your clients from 1 now on you that Sidley Austin is incapable of putting together 2 3 a two-page form application --4 MR. TREANOR: No, don't --5 THE COURT: -- in four days? 6 MR. TREANOR: -- I don't think we'll be telling our 7 clients that, your Honor. 8 THE COURT: All right. Well, anyway, he is admitted, 9 but let's make sure we get that in. 10 MR. TREANOR: Thank you, your Honor. 11 THE COURT: All right. 12 MR. SCHOENBERG: Michael Schoenberg for Kangadis 13 With me is the president the Kangadis Foods. Foods. 14 THE COURT: Just before we begin, I received this 15 morning the complaint in a new case that appears to be based on the same general set of allegations, but is a putative class 16 17 action filed by an individual plaintiff Joseph Eben and Yeruchum Jenkins -- it's an interesting combination. 18 Is defense counsel aware of that case? 19 20 MR. SCHOENBERG: I had not. I was not aware the 21 complaint had been filed. I received a letter from plaintiff's 22 counsel saying they might be filing such a complaint. 23 THE COURT: Why don't you contact, assuming you're 24 gonna be representing Kangadis in that case, as well, contact

the plaintiff's counsel once you have pulled this off of Pacer

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and let's have a telephone conference, certainly by next

Tuesday. Because we might as well just have the same case

management plan for both cases, it seems to me. But we'll need

to hear from them.

MR. SCHOENBERG: All right. So let me hear from moving counsel, and then from defendant counsel.

MR. TREANOR: Yes, your Honor.

This matter is Lanham Act case. It's a false advertising case. It's the plaintiff's position that the defendant's product advertisements are literally false. The products at issue are --

THE COURT: No, I know all that, and forgive me. I guess, I can understand -- well, I guess the first question I have is, there is some sort of letter sent umpteen years ago, and your adversary says that, therefore, you have sat on your hands, what about that.

MR. TREANOR: Well, your Honor, one of the programs that the NAOOA has is a program for monitoring the marketplace for product that does not meet international standards and labels. And during the course of that monitoring program NAOOM found some samples that were believed to contain pomace, and put Mr. Kangadis on notice of that. And that was back in 2007. Nothing happened. Apparently, as a result of that, the association was unaware of the extent of the conduct. We have learned, through the response papers of the defendant, that in

fact not only was the defendant selling entirely pomace, not just blended or adulterated olive oil that was adulterated with pomace but, in fact, entirely pomace, and doing that for the course of the last five years at least. That was not known to association. It was merely part of the monitoring program to put them on notice. There was the possibility that they had not handled their product properly, that they were not caring for their product.

As a result of that, the hope was that Kangadis would address the issue, and make sure that their products were in compliance with the various labeling standards and the like.

That didn't happen. They have aggressively grown their market share as a result of selling what is not olive oil, a product that does not meet the standards set, in any regulatory or industry association body, standard-setting body,

And more recently, additional testing was done. And the association spent time and effort to approach this thing very seriously. The association has never taken an action like this before. Care and attention was put into building a case that would be solid, and that we could come before your Honor and be able to establish, very clearly through one of the world's foremost experts, that in fact this was adulterated product. And, indeed, we are here now with the defendant essentially conceding the key fact, which is that — and more than frankly, we expected, because it's not just that they have

some product out there that contains some pomace, it is that all of their products, at least their 100 percent virgin olive oil product is all pomace, and has been for five. years. And so the facts have changed quite significantly --

THE COURT: Didn't they say they are fixing that?

MR. TREANOR: Well, they have represented in their papers, that as of March 1 they have replaced the product in their tins with something that they have stated meets USDA stated standard for olive oil.

First of all, they have done nothing about product that is out there in the marketplace already. And when they have 15 percent of the market share in the nation, that's a lot of olive oil that is out there that is falsely labeled, continues to be, no doubt, be sold and consumed. They have done absolutely nothing about that.

In addition, we don't believe that the Court should accept, necessarily, the representation, when the facts are that they have been on notice that their products are falsely advertising the contents of their tins for the amount of time. And given the volume that they have sold, we don't believe that the Court should accept that representation as sufficient.

I would also note that, as a matter of -- under the case law that's out there, the violation cannot -- the Court's power to act on the violation is not necessarily mooted by the action that the defendant is taking.

1 And if that were the case --THE COURT: No, I agree with that. 2 3 But, it's one thing to say the matter is not moot, I 4 don't think it is moot, I'll hear from your adversary on that 5 if he wishes to pursue that. But that's of the not the same as 6 saying you are entitled to injunctive relief. 7 For example, you ask for them to institute appropriate quality control measures. Why should you be entitled to that? 8 9 MR. TREANOR: Well, your Honor, I think that's the 10 least important of the relief we've requested. 11 THE COURT: Good. So, we can go home. 12 MR. TREANOR: No, I wouldn't say that, your Honor.

MR. TREANOR: That relief was requested, because of the concerns that perhaps there was a quality control issue here.

THE COURT: You better tell me why you're entitled to

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it.

We've got a defendant who has been caught red-handed; with a massive amount of product that's been distributed all over this country, and is now, because it's before this Court, is now saying, okay, you have got us, we're going to switch the product, but we believe that we are free to continue to act as we had before, if we so choose. And we have a concern that the way --

THE COURT: Yeah, well, so, I understand why you would

wish, if you otherwise satisfy the standards for injunctive relief for an order barring them from selling as 100 percent pure olive oil, any product containing pomace or any other substance that is not more narrowly known as olive oil, and from selling any product containing pomace without labeling it as such.

MR. TREANOR: Right.

THE COURT: But I'm perplexed as to what showing, if any, you have made that you're entitled to, quote, "quality control measures." And I still haven't heard any.

MR. TREANOR: Well, your Honor, it was our belief that, based on the facts that we are encountering, that there was a quality control issue. We have not submitted facts to establish that there is in fact a quality control issue.

I would say, however, that given the fact that this defendant was selling pomace as olive oil for five years, and that's 15 percent of the product that is out there in this country, up until March 1, that that speaks to the potential existence of a serious quality control issue. It speaks to no quality control within Mr. Kangadis' operation.

So that would be the basis for our requested relief. The key relief that we seek, however, is the other points that we have raised as the focus of injunctive relief. And that is that they not market pomace as 100 percent pure olive oil any longer. And, also, that they notify anyone, customers and the

like, who have received product that is mislabeled that it, in fact, contains pomace.

THE COURT: All right. One other thing -- well, let me hear from your adversary, and we'll come back to you in a minute.

MR. SCHOENBERG: May I use the podium, your Honor?
THE COURT: Sure.

MR. SCHOENBERG: To begin with, I think your Honor brings up a very good point. 2007, six years ago, the association has made the identical claims they are making now.

And if you look at exhibit B to our opposition, you would see their letter from March 22, 2007, where they specifically allege --

THE COURT: So how come you didn't do, then, what you say you have done now?

MR. SCHOENBERG: Because, your Honor, we don't believe there is any federal regulation, or state law, or regulation, especially not in 2007 that required them to do that, to change the label, as the association wanted.

THE COURT: So now the assertion then is that regardless of whether there is a standard or not, the common understanding of olive oil is not what you are selling. So that's not maybe what you regarded the letter to be about, therefore it's not something that's, in effect, been the subject of delay.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Well, I would disagree that the product that we were selling, the pomace oil, was not olive oil in the colloquial sense.

THE COURT: I know you disagree with that, but I disagree with you on that, and you're going to waste your time if you argue that.

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$ SCHOENBERG: If I could address another point of the delay.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. SCHOENBERG: The case law is legion, 4 months delay between knowledge and bringing in an injunction application is too long, too long to it sit on the rights.

It took Mr. Professor Conte 4 months, after it had taken, several months to get the supplies to them before this injunction application was made. We are talking about close to about half a year since the samples were first sent to Professor Conte. It doesn't take that long to test olive oil.

They didn't test in '07, they knew it, they waited. And the reason they waited isn't out of some altruistic motive toward the public, it's because Kangadis is doing well in the marketplace. Because they have started competing with some of the association's biggest members. And they have recently gotten contracts with Wal*Mart. And that's a direct threat to their members who are not parties to this litigation. That's the motive behind this litigation. It's not there is some

public harm, there isn't.

The public is getting a good product, an olive oil product, according to Ms. Balch. An olive oil product for less money than they would spend for extra virgin olive oil, virgin olive oil, or other types of olive oil. And according to Ms. Balch's testimony, it's equally as healthy. It is olive oil. It is from a different part of the olive, there is no question about that, but olive pomace is olive.

THE COURT: The substance that you are now using, since March, is different from pomace; yes?

MR. SCHOENBERG: It is a different grade of olive oil; that's correct.

THE COURT: And, well, but you have chosen, voluntarily, to use it; correct.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes.

THE COURT: So you don't think, apparently, that your market will be affected by the switch?

MR. SCHOENBERG: No, absolutely not. Capatriti 100 percent pure olive oil is a loss leader for Kangadis Foods. So whether they are filling it with olive pomace oil, or what they are currently selling as olive oil, ultimately, it doesn't make a difference.

THE COURT: So why aren't you agreeable to an injunction that says that, from now on, you will just -- you wouldn't use pomace, you will use this other stuff.

 $$\operatorname{MR.}$ SCHOENBERG: That is an excellent question, and I'll tell you why.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Just like they brought this suit to complete unfairly through litigation against the competition, the association has shown a penchant for running to the press.

Indeed, this lawsuit was filed February 6, February 6 that morning before the lawsuit was available on Pacer, there was an article in the New York Times saying how Kangadis is the worst thing since the devil, and what they're doing is terrible in the marketplace, and they're selling rancid oil, what have you.

An injunction, in a public document, there is an absolute certainty that the association is gonna run around to competitors, waving it in front of their faces: See, we were right, Kangadis is doing something wrong, even the judge agreed to it.

So rather than have a public document out there, we choose to -- it. We believe that moots the complaint.

THE COURT: Let me go back to your adversary, I'll come back to you in a minute, also. Thank you.

So what was this Times article, or what was the -- is this something instigated by your client?

MR. TREANOR: There was a New York Times article, your Honor. And part of the approach of the organization was to not

only bring the case, but also focus some attention on this issue. Obviously, it's a very serious issue. It's a clear issue. We've gotten a food product that has not been getting much --

THE COURT: One has to worry if you're asking the Court to exercise its equitable powers, and no court wants to be made the pawn of a press warrant.

If I were to grant, in part or in whole, your requested injunction, what plans if any do you have to notify the press?

MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, there are no plans to notify the press.

I do think that part of this association's mission is to draw attention to this particular issue. It is not a mission in terms of this lawsuit, necessarily, but it's part of the overall mission of the association.

THE COURT: Well, I -- that, of course, I understand, but that's different than using a lawsuit as a weapon in a media event. The Court is not blind, of course, to the fact that frequently happens, doesn't make it appealing to the Court. Was this was an article -- does someone have a copy of that article?

MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes.

MR. TREANOR: I have a copy of it, your Honor.

(Pause)

THE COURT: 1 Yes, well, what day was the complaint 2 filed in this case? 3 MR. REDDY: February 6th. 4 THE COURT: Pardon? 5 MR. REDDY: February 6. 6 MR. TREANOR: February 6. 7 THE COURT: February 6. And when was it served on the defendant? 8 9 MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, I believe it was dropped 10 served that same day. I'm not entirely certain of that. 11 MR. SCHOENBERG: No, it was at least two days later. 12 THE COURT: Because what we have here, while it's -- I 13 wouldn't agree with defense counsel that it carried quite the 14 moral or religious connotations that he suggested, is an 15 article that in which not only the North American Olive Oil Association, but its counsel, make statements about the merits 16 17 of the case to the press at a time when it appears that the 18 defendant either had just received it or certainly had not had 19 a chance to digest it. 20 The docket shows that service was accomplished on February 7th. This article is dated February 6th, the date of 21 22 the lawsuit being was filed. So even before the defendant is 23 served, we have plaintiff's counsel, as well as the association 24 trumpeting their allegations.

So, for example, according to the article that

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appeared in the New York Times, it has the following quote from Mr. Trainer: Quote, "This is a very, very clear-cut case of false advertising," said Timothy J. Treanor, a lawyer at Sidley Austin, who is representing the association. "This is not a case where there is room for argument about the degrees of truthfulness. Here, 100 percent olive oil is what it states on the tin and, by any standard, that's not true."

I will note that in the original version of this article, Mr. Treanor's name was misspelled. And he must be very gratified that they corrected that.

So do I have to be concerned, because a preliminary injunction is not a final determination of the merits, and contrary to Mr. Treanor's suggestion to the press, the determination of the merits had not been already determined when the plaintiff filed its complaint.

But, in any event, do I have to be concerned that if I issue an injunction, the North American Olive Oil Association, let alone, its counsel, will be going to the press and saying see, the judge has said that the other side engaged in false advertising.

MR. TREANOR: Well, your Honor, it's not our current intention. We do not have.

THE COURT: Because that wouldn't be true, would it counsel?

MR. TREANOR: No, it would not be true, your Honor,

we --

THE COURT: That would be a case of false advertising, in effect, by the North American Olive Oil Association.

MR. TREANOR: Yes, it would. In fact, your Honor, this was a big step for the association. The steps were taken, as I have said, to make sure that the complaint got some attention. Nothing was said that we don't stand by 100 percent.

THE COURT: Did you tell the reporter who interviewed you that your firm had, in fact, not yet even served your adversary?

MR. TREANOR: No, your Honor, the question wasn't asked. But it was not --

THE COURT: So I see they called Mr. Kangadis. It says Themis Kangadis, an executive with the company, said he had not heard of the lawsuit, and would ask the company's lawyers to look into it, quote, "I had no idea," close quote, Mr. Kangadis said.

He, in effect, was blind-sided because he had not even been served with the complaint.

MR. TREANOR: Well, your Honor, I do believe that were attempts that day made to serve Mr. Kangadis. I don't believe he knew about the lawsuit on the sixth, so, you know, your Honor's observation is correct.

THE COURT: Certainly on the seventh, according to the

docket sheet.

MR. TREANOR: Right.

With regard to the preliminary injunction, your Honor, it is not our intention to go out and advertises it. The association is seeking the relief that it is asking for. And it's not part of the strategy to draw attention to preliminary relief.

THE COURT: Let me go back to defense counsel.

Thank you, counsel.

THE COURT: How much of your product is still out there in retail stores that doesn't that contain pomace as opposed to the new stuff?

MR. SCHOENBERG: It's an incredibly difficult question to answer.

THE COURT: Well, that's what I get paid to do, put those questions.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Given the amount of time that has passed since the changeover, talking about more than a month at this point, I would imagine not much. The problem with answering that question is we don't sell, Kangadis doesn't sell directly to Stop And Shop, A&P, what have you. They sell to brokers, who then palletize whatever products; you know, salad dressings, vegetables that the supermarket then needs, and then ships that off to the supermarket. So we can't say with any great certainty which supermarkets contain our products, other

than Wal*Mart, obviously. Or even further down the economic chain, which final ultimate consumers have actually bought the product. So a letter to every supermarket would be overbroad. And given that that would be a mandatory injunction, I don't think that the association has met that standard. Such a letter to ultimate consumers, the individuals, like all of us, would be impossible, couldn't do it. If we had to send a letter to the buyers, the middlemen, it could be done. And I think that's something we could potentially be amenable to.

In terms of the publicity, as well, I have discussed this with Mr. Treanor, and we would be, depending on the terms, I shouldn't say happy, but we would probably be interested in entering into some sort of settlement agreement with injunctive relief that prevents us from doing what they claim that we were doing in the past, just like your Honor was saying, and that settlement agreement would then be confidential. And if we were to breach the settlement agreement, which we wouldn't, then we --

THE COURT: You are talking to the wrong judge when you are talking about "confidential." I can't prevent you from, if you reach a settlement that's confidential, I can't prevent you from keeping it confidential.

MR. SCHOENBERG: I quess the point --

THE COURT: Very, very unappealing as a matter of general policy, having nothing to do with this case.

MR. SCHOENBERG: I understand. I mean as an alternative, I was just thinking as we were sitting here, such an injunction, or consent injunction, Mr. Treanor and I would work it out.

THE COURT: Well, here is the injunction I propose to issue in about five minutes.

After certain preliminary stuff: Defendant is hereby preliminarily enjoined, (1) from selling as, quote, "100 percent pure olive oil" any product containing pomace, or any other substance that is not commonly known among consumers or among recognized standard setters as olive oil. And, (2) from selling any product containing pomace without expressly labeling it as such.

So I would not ask you to recall anything that is out there, now, and I would not ask you to take this to quality controls, but I would ask you, on pain of contempt — not ask you, I would order you, to do it in effect what you say you have been doing voluntarily since March 1. And hereinafter do it forever that way, or at least until we reach the merits of this lawsuit. Forever is a little strong, maybe given my normal standards, we are talking 6 to 9 months, that's a rough approximation of forever.

So, do you object to that?

MR. SCHOENBERG: Generally, no, I think it's the second clause in the first part of the relief. I couldn't get

it all down, but --1 2 THE COURT: Let me read it to you again. 3 And I want to hear from plaintiff's counsel, as well. 4 Defendant is hereby preliminarily enjoined: (1) from 5 selling as, quote, "100 percent pure olive oil," any product 6 containing pomace or any other substance that is not commonly 7 known among consumers, or among recognized standard setters, as quote, "olive oil," close quote; and (2) from selling any 8 9 product containing pomace without expressly labeling it as 10 such. 11 MR. SCHOENBERG: Again, the issue is the second 12 clause of the first part of the injunctive relief having to do 13 with "commonly known by consumers as olive oil." 14 USDA, if we had a defined standard, say USDA standards 15 which are voluntary --THE COURT: If you want to use that one, I'll hear 16 17 from plaintiff's counsel, but I could make that --18 MR. SCHOENBERG: The problem is that doesn't define, 19 quote/unquote, "olive oil." 20 THE COURT: All right. 21 MR. SCHOENBERG: They have different grades, so. 22 THE COURT: So, I'm willing to -- how would you define 23 it, assuming as you should, I repeat except I'm not going to 24 treat any pomace-based product as olive oil. 25 MR. SCHOENBERG: Well, I think that you could strike

that second clause where it is subjective as to what consumers believe, or standards setter believe, and just keep it with pomace, olive pomace oil. From selling.

THE COURT: The only reason I had that in, is I didn't want to create a loophole where there is something else you could substitute. But if you want to give me some alternate language, I'm perfectly happy to hear that.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Well, I think that we could use the -- and before I commit to something, I'd really like to speak with Mr. Kangadis.

THE COURT: Of course.

MR. SCHOENBERG: But I think we could use USDA Standards Section 52.1534, which is called grades of olive oil, so that you couldn't sell 100 percent pure olive oil as any product containing anything other than those grades. And the reason I raise that, is there is a separate grade of olive pomace oil, Section 52.1535 to be excluded.

THE COURT: You are enjoined from selling as has 100 percent pure olive oil any product containing pomace or any other substance that is not in accord with -- give knee that section again?

MR. SCHOENBERG: You could say: Not sell 100 percent pure olive oil if it contains any of the grades of olive pomace oil referenced in Section 52.35 of the USDA voluntary standards.

THE COURT: Let me hear from the other side. I don't 1 recall, did you submit a proposed preliminary injunction order? 2 3 MR. TREANOR: Your Honor --4 THE COURT: I don't think so. 5 MR. TREANOR: We proposed, generally, the relief we were seeking, but we have not proposed the language. 6 7 THE COURT: You did not. MR. TREANOR: We did not. 8 9 THE COURT: So what language would you use? 10 MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, we're fine with the USDA 11 standard. 12 THE COURT: Okay. So: Enjoined from selling as 100 13 percent pure olive oil, any product containing pomace or any 14 other substance that is not in accord with -- is that the way 15 to put it -- and give me the USDA standard 52.35. MR. TREANOR: 52.1534, grades the olive oil. 16 17 THE COURT: All right, wait, does someone have that there? 18 19 MR. TREANOR: Yes. 20 THE COURT: Let me just copy it down. 21 MR. TREANOR: There is one section on grades of olive 22 oil, and one on grades of pomace oil. 23 THE COURT: Now, you folks are more expert in this 24 than I am, but it looks to me like it could be, the wording 25 Enjoin one from selling as 100 percent pure olive

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oil any product containing pomace or any other substance that
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      is not in accord with USDA section 52.1534(a) or (b).
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               MR. SCHOENBERG: May I be heard?
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               THE COURT: Yes.
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               MR. SCHOENBERG: There is a difference between virgin
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      olive oil, and extra virgin olive oil, and quote/unquote
 7
      "capital O" olive oil. Those are different grades. Each one
      of those.
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               THE COURT: You presumably are not wanting to sell
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      (c), which is US virgin olive oil not fit for human
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      consumption.
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               MR. SCHOENBERG: That's right. What we're actually
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      selling is either (d) or (e).
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               THE COURT: I'm sorry (d).
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               MR. SCHOENBERG: (d) or (e).
               If we were selling virgin olive oil, or extra virgin
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17
      olive oil, this would be a --
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               THE COURT: So neither (d) nor (e) can contain pomace.
               MR. SCHOENBERG: Correct.
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               THE COURT: I see.
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               MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes.
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               THE COURT: All right, so we could just say, (a), (b),
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      (d), or (e); yes?
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               MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes.
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               THE COURT: All right.
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Let me hear from plaintiff's counsel. 1 2 THE COURT: Okay, that's agreeable? You have been 3 admitted pro hoc --4 MR. REDDY: Subsection (e). 5 THE COURT: -- without, although close call, of 6 course. 7 MR. REDDY: I apologize for that, your Honor. Subsection(e) is not supposed to be called pure olive 8 9 oil, it is a technical term, so I think it's just (d). 10 THE COURT: You could live with (a) (b) or (d). 11 MR. REDDY: Correct. 12 THE COURT: Okay, how about defense counsel? You're 13 not selling (e) are you? 14 MR. SCHOENBERG: No. No, we are, actually. In fact, (a) and (d) oil sales, one of the wholesalers of olive oil 15 defines their refined olive oil as pure olive oil. And it's 16 17 not in the papers, it's on their website, I'll give you the 18 cite. 19 THE COURT: No. No, my only question is are you 20 selling something that falls within 52.1534(e). 21 MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes. 22 THE COURT: And this is, we are not talking about your 23 pomace stuff, we are talking about the new stuff. 24 MR. SCHOENBERG: Currently, correct. 25 THE COURT: Okay. And why does it fall within (e) as

opposed to (d).

MR. SCHOENBERG: I believe one is a blend, and one isn't, but it's the refining process.

THE COURT: It looked to me like (d) has a, quote,

"has acceptable odor and flavor characteristic of virgin olive
oil." Whereas (e) is flavorless, and odorless, and it's
obtained from virgin olive oils by refining methods -- well,

I -- well, no, I don't know, is your stuff flavorless and
odorless?

MR. SCHOENBERG: I have not had a chance to try it.

THE COURT: What?

MR. SCHOENBERG: No comment.

If you look at subsection(e) in the middle of that paragraph, the sentence starts capital O, Olive oil, olive oil falls within this classification, et cetera, et cetera. This is olive oil by the USDA's definition. This is 100 percent pure, quote/unquote "olive oil." It is different than (d. I can't -- I am not a scientist, I can't tell you why the USDA has broken the categories between (d) and (e), other than the say the definition is one is a blend.

THE COURT: Let me ask plaintiff's counsel.

Has the association taken the position that someone who is selling (e) can't label theirs as olive oil?

MR. REDDY: No, your Honor. The issue is the word 100 percent pure. And the way that the industry --

1 THE COURT: So how can refined be pure? MR. REDDY: 2 Yeah. 3 THE COURT: And you're labeling your stuff as 100 4 percent pure. MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes, but just because something is 5 refined, doesn't mean it is not pure olive oil. 6 7 THE COURT: Well, I don't know much about olive oil, but I do know that under the ordinary meaning of the word 8 9 "pure" and the ordinary meaning of the word "refined," 10 something that is refined is not pure. 11 MR. SCHOENBERG: Well, you can look at the other 12 definitions that fall under the grades of quote/unquote "olive 13 oil," as defined by USDA. And they are also refined. 14 US olive oil, US quote/unquote "olive oil" is the oil 15 consisting of a blend of refined olive oil. THE COURT: Where are you looking at? 16 17 MR. SCHOENBERG: Sub (d) 52.1534 as refined --18 THE COURT: But that doesn't use the word "virgin." Your -- or "pure," excuse me. 19 20 MR. SCHOENBERG: But the association is saying that 21 sub(d) would be fine if we labeled it as 100 percent pure olive 22 oil. Because it is not refined. Well sub(d) is refined. 23 fact, olive oil is refined. But the USDA defines the olive 24 oil. And, again, I'm quoting olive oil as any one of those 25 grades, if it has 100 percent of these grades, it is olive oil.

THE COURT: What is crystal clear is that none of 1 these (a), (b), even (c), let alone or (d) or (e), contains 2 3 pomace, right? 4 MR. SCHOENBERG: We'll agree. Yes, that's true. 5 THE COURT: So let me go back to plaintiff. 6 Your problem with using (e) is the use of the word 7 "pure?" 8 MR. REDDY: Yes, your Honor. 9 THE COURT: In connection with (e). 10 MR. REDDY: Yeah, the prevailing industry standard for the use of the word "pure," is essentially what is codified by 11 12 USDA as subsection (d). And that the use of the word "pure" 13 corresponds to blending. With refined oil with, there is a 14 little bit of --15 THE COURT: You would have no problem with their saying as 100 percent olive oil, something that fell within 16 17 (e). 18 MR. REDDY: Correct. The question is the word "pure." 19 THE COURT: All right, so --20 MR. SCHOENBERG: Can I? 21 THE COURT: -- let me take another stab. 22 MR. SCHOENBERG: May I be heard a second, your Honor? 23 THE COURT: Yeah. 24 MR. SCHOENBERG: I disagree with Mr. Reddy's assertion 25 that that's the industry standard.

If you look at exhibit J, for example, of our motion 1 2 papers, you'll see a screen shot from Botticelli, again, not an 3 association member, where they are describing 100 percent pure olive oil, as Botticelli 100 pure olive oil is a high quality 4 5 blend of virgin refined olive oils. And if you look at --6 MR. REDDY: Exactly what subsection (d) is. 7 THE COURT: So, I mean I -- it looks to me, that -- by the way, is it important to you to say the word "pure" in your 8 9 ads? 10 MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes. And I'll tell you why. 11 THE COURT: And what is it you seek to convey with the 12 word "pure." 13 MR. SCHOENBERG: That it is nothing but olive oil. 14 It's not extra virgin, it's not virgin, but it's olive oil. Ιt 15 is not canola oil, not seed oil, not vegetable oil, it's olive 16 oil. 17 THE COURT: Here's what I'm going to do. It does sound to me like there is substantial agreement among the 18 parties as to the injunction I propose to issue. But you can't 19 20 quite work out a wording, yet, that is agreeable to both sides. 21 So I will give you from now until 2:00 to work out 22 that wording. And then we'll reconvene at 2:00. 23 If you can't work it out, I'll just do the best I can.

this injunction issued today. But I'll give you the two things

But I want to issue -- this is a Friday, I want to get

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that I am prepared to preliminarily enjoin.

It is, basically, any sale of anything that is olive oil that contains pomace, or contains any other substance that is not covered by Section 52.1534; and, second, from selling any product that does contain pomace without labeling it as containing pomace.

Those are the only two things I'm prepared to enjoin today. So see if you can work out the wording among yourselves, and I'll see you all at 2:00.

MR. TREANOR: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Thank you, your Honor.

MR. TREANOR: If I can raise one additional matter?

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. TREANOR: And that is the issue of the additional relief we have asked for, injunctive relief which includes -- I understand that your Honor has said that you are not gonna order a recall, but this is issue of notice to the marketplace with regards to the product that is already out there.

THE COURT: I would be -- I agree that's a close call.

If there ways a lot of stuff out there, that would be appropriate. The suggestion is there is not much stuff out there. And I don't really have much evidence, one way or the other at this point, it's the representations of counsel. If there is not much stuff out there, then I am concerned about both the expense and the potential injury to the reputation of

the defendant by a re-call. And to be frank, that is partly affected by the use made of the press by the plaintiff in this case.

On the other hand, if there is a lot of stuff out there, then it has to be, not re-called, but there has to be notice sent to the retailers.

So it really turns on that. If there is some more information by 2:00 that you can give me, I'm happy to hear it.

If you want to take the consent injunction today without prejudice to that on further issue, and then both sides can give me further date on that, we can take that up next week, that's okay, too. Because I understand the other side really necessarily has firm date on that at this point. But that's the balance in the Court's mind.

If there is a lot out there, then the need for notice becomes sufficient to outweigh the downsides of expense and possible reputational harm.

If it is just little stuff out there, then I think it the balance cuts the other way.

MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, I'm not sure we're going to be able to dig up data, certainly not by 2:00. But, you know, this is 15 percent of the -- most recently, at least,

15 percent of the olive oil sold in the United States. It's typically sold in 101 ounce tins --

THE COURT: Yeah, no, I --

MR. TREANOR: -- and that's -
THE COURT: -- that's a fair point. And I was not

3 totally -- you know, your adversary says that the real

motivation behind this is his company's success.

Well, first of all, I don't know want to speculate about people's motives. But if the success is based on false advertising, then it is a success that shouldn't have been a success.

MR. TREANOR: That's right, your Honor.

THE COURT: So, I --

MR. TREANOR: All we would propose, your Honor -- and I apologize. All we would propose is notice to the customer -- to the best extent that Kangadis can deliver, based on the information it has, notice to its customer that have purchased from it, and request that notice from those customers go to its customers. Also, notice can be accomplished through --

THE COURT: Notice saying what?

MR. TREANOR: Saying that the olive oil, 100 percent pure olive oil sold by Kangadis contains pomace. And the product labeled as 100 percent pure olive oil contains pomace.

THE COURT: Well, I think where I come down is --

MR. TREANOR: There is also website notification, your Honor.

THE COURT: I'll take that up at 2:00 as well, but it wouldn't be part of this. There clearly is going to be a

contest over that. So I want to get what I hope you both can consent to, which is what I just read, in the formulation you will then mutually hopefully come up with. And that will issue as a preliminary injunction. I will consider whatever arguments either of you want to make on additional consent injunction. Additional preliminary injunction, not on consent. I doubt -- I'm not wedded to consent. Judges have been known to make up their own mind.

On the issue of notice. So I will take that up separately at 2:00. But I first want to see if we can reach agreement on the portions I outlined a few minutes ago.

All right, see you at 2:00.

ALL: Thank you, your Honor.

(Recess)

THE DEPUTY CLERK: Please be seated.

THE COURT: All right, so were you able to reach agreement?

MR. REDDY: Unfortunately, we were not, your Honor.

The dispute between the parties, as I understand it and Mr. Schoenberg can correct me if I'm wrong, the parties are in agreement on the second prong of the two prongs.

On the first prong, the issue comes down to whether subsection(d) and whether subsection(e) is included.

It's our position that subsection (e) of the USDA Section 52.134 should not be included, because the prevailing

standard in the industry defines "pure" in a way that requires the blending of some amount of virgin olive oil into refined olive oil.

You can see evidence of this prevailing standard both on defendant's own website, which defines pure olive oil as a blend of virgin and refined olive oil. You can see that also on the two different suppliers that defendant has pointed to that now it is purchasing olive oil from. Those suppliers also define pure olive oil as a blend of --

THE COURT: Well, this is a false advertising case.

And, ultimately, what we're concerned with are the consumers.

I was going use the standards, only because the parties jointly thought that might be helpful. But, I must say from the standpoint of a consumer, I think "pure" normally doesn't have anything to do with whether it is refined or unrefined.

If you think about orange juice. To the average consumer, I suspect, something that says is 100 percent pure orange juice means that there is no other substance in there, that they have not mixed in some other kind of juice or some water or something like that, so all stuff that comes from an orange. And by analogy to this case, it's not stuff that comes from taking the orange skin and smashing it up, because the juice you get from squeezing the orange. But it could be refined or unrefined. At least I say this without prejudice to any evidence that anyone wants to put before me.

And "virgin," by contrast, suggests that it comes directly from the olive, I don't think you ever hear the term virgin orange juice. But I guess there are no virgins among oranges. But so as I understand it, what the defendants are making is totally refined — now making is totally refined olive oil. And I don't see why that would be within the scope of what an ordinary consumer would think of when they said 100 percent pure olive oil.

It's clearly not virgin. And they don't say that in there. And the whole point of this lawsuit was to get rid of the pomace, and get rid of the passing off pomace as olive oil. And of course the final determination of the word wouldn't be until the end of the case. But for preliminary injunction purposes, I have already indicated I agree that the plaintiffs have a high likelihood of prevailing on their assertion that pomace is not what the consumer believes is olive oil.

So, I'm a little disappointed that what you both thought would be helpful, which is a reference to the USDA, has turned out to be something that's divided you, when I think the parties are substantially in agreement that the preliminary injunction should not prevent these defendants from selling their new product, the product they are now representing they are making in this respect, as 100 percent olive oil. And, conversely, no one suggests that they should include pomace.

So this is a debate over "pure," and the meaning of

pure. And while industry standards may be relevant to that, in a false advertising case it is really what the consumer perceives. But if we can't get consent, I'll just figure out something on my own.

Let me make sure upon. Am I right that nowhere in any of the standards you have given me, from any source, is the word "pure" defined?

MR. REDDY: That is correct. I don't believe that the word "pure" is defined in any of the standards. I did want to respond briefly to your comment that --

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. REDDY: -- consumers wouldn't think that pure olive oil would include a blend of virgin along with refined.

I respectfully disagree, only because refined, purely refined olive oil, has no taste or flavor. When a consumer purchases olive oil, they are purchasing it because they want the olive oil flavor, they don't want it to taste like corn oil, they don't want it to taste like canola oil, they want it to have a little bit of the olive oil flavor.

The only way that flavor comes into the equation, is when you blend it with virgin. That is what the USDA standards recognizes, and that's why it is important to the consumer.

THE COURT: So their product has no flavor.

MR. REDDY: A refined product would have no flavor.

I don't know what the current -- I have not tasted the

1 current product.

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THE COURT: All right.

Well, their previous product was also -- the one that contained pomace -- was also 100 percent refined; yes?

MR. REDDY: Correct. Their previous product was -- based on their admission, yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Did that have a flavor?

MR. REDDY: I don't know.

THE COURT: What is striking is that it appears clear that the respective client in this case hired, as their counsel, people who had never actually tasted the olive oil in question.

MR. REDDY: I have tasted it, your Honor. I -- I am not an olive oil expert. I know that the product had --

THE COURT: This has nothing do with experts, right, it has to do with the average consumer.

MR. REDDY: No, understood, your Honor. And actually I --

THE COURT: You look like an average consumer.

MR. REDDY: And actually, your Honor, I misspoke when I said that the previous product had no flavor. Actually, when it was sent for testing, along with the testing that was done for chemical testing, an organoleptic assessment was done, which is a sensory analysis. What one would have assumed from a pure refined product, is that it would have come back with no

flavor, whatsoever. In fact, this came back with a flavor of lampante, which is a bad flavor, to put it in laymen's terms.

If you looked in the category that the USDA talks

about, it's that's stuff that cannot be fit for human consumption. L-A-M-P-A-N-T-E.

And that 's what the test results from the laboratory suggested. So I don't know how to square that with their statement that they have used a purely refined product.

That those are the facts that we have, your Honor.

THE COURT: Let me hear from your adversary.

Thank you.

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MR. SCHOENBERG: First, I'd say that the Conte report is hearsay. We have not had a chance to depose Professor Conte. I am not sure which reference Mr. Reddy is making to in the report, but to rely on it at this point, I don't think you can. Lampante --

THE COURT: Did you bring a bottle here of olive oil?

MR. SCHOENBERG: Funny you should ask, I do.

THE COURT: All right, I'll taste it.

MR. SCHOENBERG: But it's empty.

Lampante is that (c) grade of olive oil not fit for human consumption, which we're not saying should be excluded, should be excluded.

I have spoken to Mr. Kangadis, who absolutely has tasted all of these products. And he assures me that

Capatriti, when it had pomace oil, has no flavor. Again, the only reason that you add any sort of virgin olive oil to refined is to add the flavor. But the point is that refined olive oil is still pure olive oil. And if you were to make it US olive oil, by these standards, we could add point zero zero one percent of virgin olive oil and, boom, we have US olive oil. It is an illogical argument.

THE COURT: No. No, the question is, I agree with you that these standards may not be helpful, that's -- you know, you jointly suggest that we use these standards. And it's creating more problems than it may be solving. But the question is what is meant by the term "pure." And if what is meant by the term pure to the average consumer is unrefined, then that's one thing. If what is meant to the average consumer is that it doesn't contain anything else but olive oil, it's another thing. I was suggesting that at least in the context of orange juice, the average consumer thinks of "pure" as simply that it is just orange juice, it doesn't contain anything else, which is essentially your position, if I understand it in terms of the olive oil. But I don't have any evidence, one way or the other, and none of the standards address pure, and it was not the subject of any briefing.

So I think we have to go a different route than using USDA standards, since they don't translate into that.

MR. SCHOENBERG: But I guess the point that I was

trying to make in bringing up the standards, is that we could do what your Honor had suggested, that does not contain any pomace or any -- and we can modify the language to be any substance, instead of "not covered by" you do it affirmatively, "substance covered by Section 1535" which describes all of the grades of pomace oil. You make it --

THE COURT: Yeah, but that's a -- and that still doesn't resolve the debate. It's (e)that that the plaintiff says you should not be within the equation, so to speak, and which you say should be in the equation.

MR. SCHOENBERG: Correct.

THE COURT: And that turns, everyone agrees, that (e) like (a),(b), and for that matter even (c), and(d), is 100 percent olive oil. The debate is whether it is -- whether (e) is pure olive oil, is it 100 percent pure olive oil. And nothing you can given me really resolves that. So I think we have at least agreement on this much, that the defendant is preliminarily enjoined from selling, as 100 percent pure olive oil, any product containing pomace. And, from selling any product containing pomace without expressly labeling it as such. Right, do we have agreement on that?

MR. SCHOENBERG: Yes, your Honor.

MR. TREANOR: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: So let's do this. I will issue, right now -- as soon as my law clerk can re-type it -- on consent,

just that limited -- and then I will take up in my chambers over the weekend all of the other things that you have all discussed that you cannot reach consent on. And I'll issue a further order, which may either be more preliminary injunction or a lack thereof, but some sort of order, early next week.

I don't see any reason why this world will come to an end, between now and the beginning of next week, especially given that this order will take effect immediately.

So the order that takes effect immediately is, I'll just read it here aloud, and then we'll file it later today.

On consent of the parties, defendant is hereby preliminarily enjoined (1) from selling, as 100 percent pure olive oil, any product containing pomace; and (2) selling any product containing pomace without expressly labeling it as such.

And I'll take up all of the other points, including the notice point and the re-call point, and everything else, in the order that I will issue early next week.

Okay, anything further we need to take up today?

MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, earlier when we met, I said that I didn't think we would be able to come up with any useful statistics by 2:00. We do have some useful information we think would be helpful to the Court. And that is that research, market research has shown that Americans consume approximately 1 liter of olive oil per year. That's a lot less

than the 24 liters consumed in Greece, which is the highest, and there are other countries that are lower.

THE COURT: Is that why the Greek economy is in such trouble?

MR. TREANOR: Perhaps. Perhaps, your Honor.

THE COURT: So the 1 liter, these are sold in 3-liter tins. Obviously, if you are someone who lives alone, you probably are less likely to buy a 3-liter continue, than a family. But I think it's safe to say that a 3-liter tin could typically last up to a year.

We would also note that on the samples provided by Mr. Schoenberg of the new tins, the sell-by date is a two-year period of time.

So to the extent that the Capatriti 100 percent pure olive oil is viable on the marketplace for two years, that means that the containers could be out there. And, obviously, there will be more sold sooner, rather than later, in that time period, but it's market viable for two years, probably takes somewhere —

THE COURT: So I see where you are going, let me ask you a related question; two related questions.

First, rather than my issuing this subsequent order early next week, maybe we should give an opportunity to both sides to, early next week, make any further submissions on the issue of what is already out there that, arguably, needs to be

re-called or, short of that, notified about.

So why don't we say any submissions on that, and not to exceed 10 pages, 10 double-spaced pages per side, should be submitted to the Court with any attachments that need to be should be submitted to the Court by 5:00 Wednesday, simultaneously, both sides. And I'll hold off issuing my order until the end of the week.

With respect to that, though, assuming for the sake of argument you convince me that there is a lot out there, then -- I was not going to impose any bond on the consent injunction that I just read, because I don't -- first of all, it's on consent. And secondly, there is no real costs involved.

A notice and/or re-call do involve real costs which, if you then fail to prevail, ultimately, your adversary might be entitled to recoup.

Is a bond appropriate for those purposes?

MR. TREANOR: Well, your Honor, our position is that it's not. And for the reason that your Honor has observed with regards to the issue before you on the preliminary injunction. And that is that pomace is not olive oil. We think the likelihood of succeeding on on establishing that is extremely high, that there is no costs involved in --

THE COURT: All right, I remember reading that in the New York Times, your view on that.

Well, the point is that I don't know about extremely,

but obviously I agree with you that the likelihood is very 1 high, that is why we went down the road we did this morning. 2 3 But, that doesn't mean it's impossible that your adversary will 4 prevail. And that's what bonds are all about, are they not? 5 Now, let me ask a different question, what's the 6 assets of the plaintiff? 7 MR. TREANOR: Your Honor, the budget of the association is established, is funded through membership dues. 8 9 I'm not going to represent that there are no assets of the 10 organization other than the dues that flows in to cover the 11 expenses. I suspect that's the case, but we'll submit 12 something to the Court --13 THE COURT: Here's what I'm getting at. We don't need 14 a bond in a situation where the party requesting injunction is, 15 you know, an established institution that's always going to be good for any damages that might occur. That's not the sole 16 17 reason for a bond, but it is a relevant consideration. 18 How long has the association been around? MR. TREANOR: 19 1989. 20 THE COURT: And how many members? 21 MR. TREANOR: Approximately 75 companies, right now. 22 THE COURT: All right. Well, I will think about all

THE COURT: All right. Well, I will think about all of that. If either, or both of you, want to, in your 10-page submission, also say a word or two about the bond.

My only point is this. For the present injunction, no

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bond is necessary under any analysis. If, for example -- I was 1 2 thinking about the notice. The notice without the re-call 3 somewhat puts the retailer in an odd position. What are they 4 gonna do, put up their own signs that says this really contains 5 pomace? Or, are they just going to send it back to the 6 company. So that puts -- it's an odd kind of thing. And maybe 7 we should give them some guidance in that -- if the guidance we gave them, taking at worst case for the defense at the moment 8 9 was re-call, and then the Court were to determine, or the Court 10 of Appeals were to determine, for example, because an 11 injunction would be immediately appealed, that re-call was 12 inappropriate, that would be potentially substantial damages 13 that a bond ought to cover. 14 But if the company, if the association is good for it, so to speak, under any fair analysis, then maybe it's really 15 16 not necessary.

So you may want to address that in your papers.

THE COURT: Okay. All right, anything else we need take up today?

MR. TREANOR: Not from the plaintiff.

MR. SCHOENBERG: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thanks so much.

(Adjourned)

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